



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7202.4-OS-2012-00439

August 17, 2012

Shawn Musgrave
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 1730
PO Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Dear Mr. Musgrave:

On August 16, 2012, you sent a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking the following:

1. any requests for proposals, proposals submitted by vendors, contracts, budgets or cost allocations for the purchase and/or use of aerial drones, UAs, UAVs, and UASs (hereinafter "drones");
2. any policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on department use of drones, including on the legal process required (such as a warrant or court order), if any, before operating a drone;
3. any departmental records concerning this department's use of drones now or plans to use drones in the future including:
 - a. the types of investigations or instances in which this department is using or plans to use drones, or how it plans to support, manage or oversee the usage of drones by another department or office;
 - b. policies, guidelines, manuals and/or instructions on storage requirements or procedures for video or static images obtained through use of drones, including retention times;
 - c. the altitude at which drones can or do fly;
 - d. drones' ability to carry weapons.

Your requests was received in the Office of the Secretary FOIA office on August 16, 2012, and assigned control number **OS-2012-00439**. Please cite this number in any future communications with our office regarding your request.

We have classified your request as a "media use request." As a "media use requester" you are required to pay for duplication after 100 pages. As a matter of policy, however, the Department of the Interior does not bill requesters for FOIA fees incurred in processing requests when their fees do not exceed \$30.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. (See 43 C.F.R. §2.18(a)).

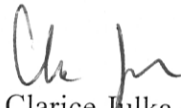
You have asked for a waiver of all FOIA processing fees. Please be advised that we are in the process of determining whether or not your entitlements are sufficient to enable us to process your request, or if we will need to issue a formal determination on your request for a fee waiver.

You have asked for copies of agency records. According to our regulations, you may choose the format of disclosure for such records. Unless you specify otherwise, the Office of the Secretary will provide copies of responsive records on a CD-ROM disk as scanned PDF images when the responsive records exceed 50 pages.

Given the subject of your request, we are initiating a search within the National Business Center Acquisition Services Directorate. Because we will need to consult with one or more offices of the Department in order to properly process your request, the Office of the Secretary FOIA office is taking a 10-workday extension under 43 C.F.R. §2.13(3). For the same reason, we are placing your request under the "Complex" processing track. See 43 C.F.R. §2.26.

In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the status of your request, or any of the issues discussed in this letter, you may contact Cindy Sweeney by phone at 202-208-3552, by fax at 202-219-2374, by e-mail at os_foia@ios.doi.gov or by mail at U.S. Department of the Interior, 1951 Constitution Avenue, N.W., MS 116-SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Sincerely,



Clarice Julka
Office of the Secretary
FOIA Officer